

## **SP-T6 Interagency Wildlife Management Coordination and Wildlife Management Plan Development**

*October 25, 2002*

### **1.0 Introduction/Background**

Several land management agencies actively manage wildlife resources within the project boundary including Plumas National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Parks and Recreation, and California Department of Water Resources. Each of these land management agencies has differing missions, policies, management direction, funding levels and priorities related to management of wildlife resources. Stakeholders have suggested that opportunities exist to improve interagency coordination, management, and planning related to wildlife resources.

### **2.0 Study Objective**

- Develop a coordinated interagency terrestrial resource management plan for the project area, including the Oroville Wildlife Area.
- Identify funding needed to meet resource management goals
- Identify opportunities to enhance interagency coordination, management, and planning related to wildlife resources within the project area.

### **3.0 Relationship to Relicensing /Need for the Study**

There is concern that wildlife management of project lands may currently be undertaken in a piecemeal fashion by each individual land management agency. This study will identify opportunities to improve interagency coordination and communication on land use and wildlife management issues over the term of the license. The study is important to the development of a wildlife management plan that is required by FERC.

### **4.0 Study Area**

Within the FERC Project boundary and other areas that affect wildlife use of Project lands. Study plans approved by the Environmental Work Group define the limits of the study area. If initial study results indicate that the study area should be expanded or contracted, the Environmental Work Group will discuss the basis for change and revise the study area as appropriate.

### **5.0 General Approach**

If initial study results indicate that the methods and tasks should be modified, the Environmental Work Group will discuss the basis for change and revise the study plan as appropriate.

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#### Task 1

Collect and analyze each land management agencies' current mission, goals, objectives, management direction, policies and plans as they relate to wildlife management within the study area.

#### Task 2

Identify common elements in land management agencies' plans and policies as well as inconsistencies between agencies.

#### Task 3

In coordination with appropriate agencies, evaluate the adequacy of current levels of wildlife management and fish and wildlife related law enforcement.

#### Task 4

Identify methods for improving interagency communication and coordination on wildlife issues.

#### Task 5

Explore needs and sources for wildlife management and law enforcement funding.

#### Task 6

Develop criteria for development of a coordinated Wildlife Management Plan for the project area.

#### Task 7

Review results of all relicensing studies related to wildlife resources.

#### Task 8

Develop a Preliminary Wildlife Management Plan using the information and agreements developed under tasks 1-7 as well as results from other relicensing studies.

#### Task 9

Revise draft plan to include public and agency concerns and comments and results from settlement negotiations.

#### Task 10

Submit to FERC a Wildlife Management Plan.

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## 6.0 Results and Products/Deliverables

### *Results*

The product of this study will be a wildlife management plan for the lands within the project area that is consistent to the extent possible with wildlife management plans relevant to the study area. This plan will identify how interagency coordination could occur in the future, guidelines for wildlife management, opportunities for interagency habitat improvements, evaluation of current wildlife management and law enforcement funding, relicensing protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures, and coordinated monitoring efforts. For example results of this study could recommend formation of an interagency task force to facilitate resolution of potentially conflicting land use and wildlife management issues over the term of the license (adaptive management).

## 7.0 Coordination and Implementation Strategy

### *Coordination with Other Resource Areas/Studies*

This study will be conducted concurrently with other terrestrial resource studies. Products from this study are highly dependent on the participation of all land management agencies. The results of other terrestrial resource studies will be incorporated into the final product. This study will also be coordinated with SP-LU2, SP-LU3 and SP-R5. Evaluation of current and future fishing and hunting opportunities will be handled in the Recreation and Socioeconomics Work Group.

### *Issues, Concerns, Comments Tracking, and/or Regulatory Compliance*

This study will evaluate interagency wildlife management coordination, adequacy of management plans and activities, and funding needs for wildlife management. This study fully or partially addresses the following Stakeholder issues:

#### *Stakeholder issues fully address SP-T6 Interagency Wildlife Management Coordination and Wildlife Management Plan Development*

- TE26—Are additional funds needed to augment the existing budget of the Oroville Wildlife Area? Presently available Fish and Game funds are being dedicated to managing people and not wildlife habitat.
- TE49—Responsible management by resource agencies.
- TE54—Evaluation of funding adequacy for Oroville Wildlife Area.
- TE55—Evaluation of funding adequacy for law enforcement.

## 8.0 Study Schedule

Tasks 1 and 2 completed by June 2002. Tasks 3, 4, and 5 completed by end of December 2002. Task 6 completed by July 2004. Task 7 completed by June 2004. Task 8 and 9 completed by December 2004. An interim report will be prepared in January 2003.

